In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel ~~cell elements~~cells of said fuel cell unit, wherein a first of said at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells is provided with a first catalytic ~~coatings~~coating and wherein a second of said at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells is provided with a second catalytic ~~coatings~~coating different from said first catalytic ~~coatings~~coating, and wherein said at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells have at least different quantities of the catalytic coatings.

2. (currently amended) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said electronic control unit includes at least one control element for controlling material streams of individual ones of said fuel ~~cell elements~~cells.

3. (currently amended) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 2, wherein said control element is arranged between two of said fuel ~~cell elements~~cells.

4. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said control element is formed as a control valve.

5. (currently amended) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein at least two of said fuel ~~cell elements~~cells are provided with different, maximum electrical powers.

Claims 6-7 cancelled.

8. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1; and further comprising at least one pressure generating unit for generating at least two different operational pressures.

9. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 8, wherein said pressure generating unit includes a high pressure generating element and a low pressure generating element.

10. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said fuel cell unit is formed so as to provide an operation for supplying current.

11. (Original) A fuel cell device as defined in claim 1, wherein said fuel cell unit is formed so as to provide an operation for supplying heat.

12. (currently amended) A vehicle, comprising a vehicle part; and a fuel cell device, said fuel cell device including a fuel cell unit having at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel ~~cell elements~~cells of said fuel cell unit.

13. (currently amended) A method of operating of a fuel cell device, comprising the steps of providing a fuel cell unit having at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells for conversion of the chemical energy into electrical energy; electrically coupling said at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells by a connection selected from the group consisting of a serial electrical_connection, a parallel electrical connection, and both; and controlling said fuel cell unit by an electronic control unit which controls individual ones of said fuel ~~cell elements~~cells.

14. (Withdrawn and currently amended) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells

which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel ~~cell elements~~cells of said fuel cell unit, said at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~ cells including a first fuel cell ~~element~~ having a higher power and a second fuel cell ~~element~~ having a lower power, said first fuel cell ~~element~~ having a higher power and being operated both in a partial load region as well as in a full load region, while said second fuel cell ~~element~~ having a lower power and being operated in a fuel load region additionally.

15. (Withdrawn and currently amended) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel ~~cell elements~~cells of said fuel cell unit, said fuel cell unit being formed so as to provide an operation for supplying heat so that in a case of an increased heat consumption said electronic control unit controls a smallest possible fuel cell ~~element~~ to produce electrical power.

16. (Withdrawn and currently amended) A fuel cell device, comprising a fuel cell unit including at least two fuel ~~cell elements~~cells which are electrically coupled with one another in a way selected from the group consisting of a series electrical coupling, a parallel electrical coupling, and both, for conversion of chemical energy into an electrical energy; and an electronic control unit for controlling individual fuel ~~cell elements~~cells of said fuel cell unit, and at least one pressure generating unit for generating at least two different operational pressures, wherein said pressure generating unit includes a high pressure generating element and a low pressure generating element that generate pressure to a same fluid.